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Expand Your Japanese Vocabulary with Inference

Learn about introducing someone

Mark Complete

Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji | English | Rōmaji | Hiragana | All

A: 先生。

こちらは学校の友達のジェニーです。

B: 初めまして。

ジェニーです。

どうぞよろしくお願いします。

C: 初めまして。

渡辺です。

よろしくお願いします。

学生ですか。

B: すみません。わかりません。

もう一度お願いします。

ゆっくりお願いします。

C: 学生ですか。

B: はい、そうです。

Vocabulary

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English | Kana | Rōmaji

こちら [こちら]
this direction

学校 [がっこう] — 4 EXAMPLES
school

その子供達は学校に行くところだ。
The kids are going to school.
そのこどもたちはがっこうにいくところだ。

学校に着く
arrive at school
がっこうにつく

学校が好きです。
I like my school.

学校は家から、ちょっと遠いです。
The school is a bit far from my home.

の [の]
possessive

友達 [ともだち]
friend

ジェニー [ジェニー]
Jenny

学生 [がくせい] — 2 EXAMPLES
student

学生は勉強する
student studies
がくせいはべんきょうする

学生が図書館で勉強します。
The student studies at the library.
がくせいはとしょかんでべんきょうします。

わかりません [わかりません] — 1 EXAMPLE
don't understand

わかりません。もう一度お願いします。
I don't understand. Could you say that again?

もう一度お願いします [もういちどおねがいします]
Once again please

ゆっくりお願いします [ゆっくりおねがいします]
Slowly please

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

Today's grammar point reviews the basic sentence pattern using *desu*. In the introductions covered previously, the structure "[name] *desu*" was used to identify one's own name. In this instance, the subject ("I") is inferred. This pattern can be used to identify not only names, but also objects, attributes and more. In today's lesson, this same pattern, with the subject still inferred, was used in conjunction with the interrogative *ka* particle in order to ask the question:

学生ですか。
Gakusei desu ka?
"Are you a student? (Literally,"student?")"

The pattern is very simple:
X *desu*. / X *desu ka?*
"Is that a school?"

Today, we will focus on using a noun in the place of X. By taking advantage of the tendency in Japanese to infer things, one can use this structure to express many ideas, even with the limited vocabulary introduced thus far in the Newbie lessons. For example, using today's vocabulary, if someone were to ask you what a building was, you could answer:

学校です。
Gakkō desu.
"It is a school."

Or in the case of a question, you could point at a building and ask:

学校ですか。
Gakkō desu ka?
"Is that a school?"

If you were to run into a friend at the local shopping mall, and your friend was with a person you did not know, you could ask:

友達ですか。
Tomodachi desu ka?
"Is he/she a friend?"

To which your friend could reply:

はい、友達です
Hai, tomodachi desu.
"Yes, he/she is a friend."

As you can see, this pattern, although extremely simple, can be very flexible. However, do keep in mind that you are taking advantage of inference, and if the subject of the sentence is not clear from context, the meaning of the sentence will also be unclear.

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

する suru to do	*Introduced*
の (1) no (1) possessive particle	*Introduced*
か (1) ka (1) question particle	*Introduced*
です desu to be (copula)	*Used*

Kanji

Hide

KANJI	READING	MEANING	1ST CHARACTER	2ND CHARACTER
先生	せん・せい	Teacher	先・Before	生・Life
学校	がっ・こう	School	学・Study	校・Exam
友達	とも・だち	Friend	友・Friend	達・Accomplished
もう一度	もう・いち・ど	Once again	一・One	度・Times
お願いします	お・ねが・いします	Please	願・Petition	

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